

Aeolian Vocalion



*INSTRUCTIONS
for its care and
operation . . .*

Instructions

For the care and
operation of the

Aeolian Vocalion



THE AEOLIAN COMPANY

AEOLIAN HALL

NEW YORK LONDON PARIS BERLIN

THE AEOLIAN VOCALION is an instrument of highly perfected design, and so accurately adjusted by its makers that it need receive only ordinary care to insure the best musical results.

However, the fact should not be lost sight of that *The Aeolian Vocalion* is a musical instrument of the highest type, and it will no more withstand abusive or careless handling than a fine piano or an exquisitely-wrought watch.

The instructions and suggestions which follow should be carefully read, and closely observed in using *The Vocalion*.

The Aeolian Vocalion

Instructions

N receipt of the Vocalion, if not already adjusted, it will be necessary for you to attach the "sound-box" to the "tone arm" and to place the "turntable" on the "turntable spindle."

To place the turntable on the turntable spindle, adjust the hub "A" (Fig. 1, page 6) on the turntable over the spindle "B."

To attach the sound-box force the pin "C" (Fig. 2, page 8) in the tube on the back of the sound-box into the slot "D" on the end of the tone arm as far as it will go, and then secure tightly with the small set screw "E."

To insert the needle. First, turn the sound box "F" (Fig. 3, page 10) to its extreme left position—this position is shown in dotted line. Then place the needle as

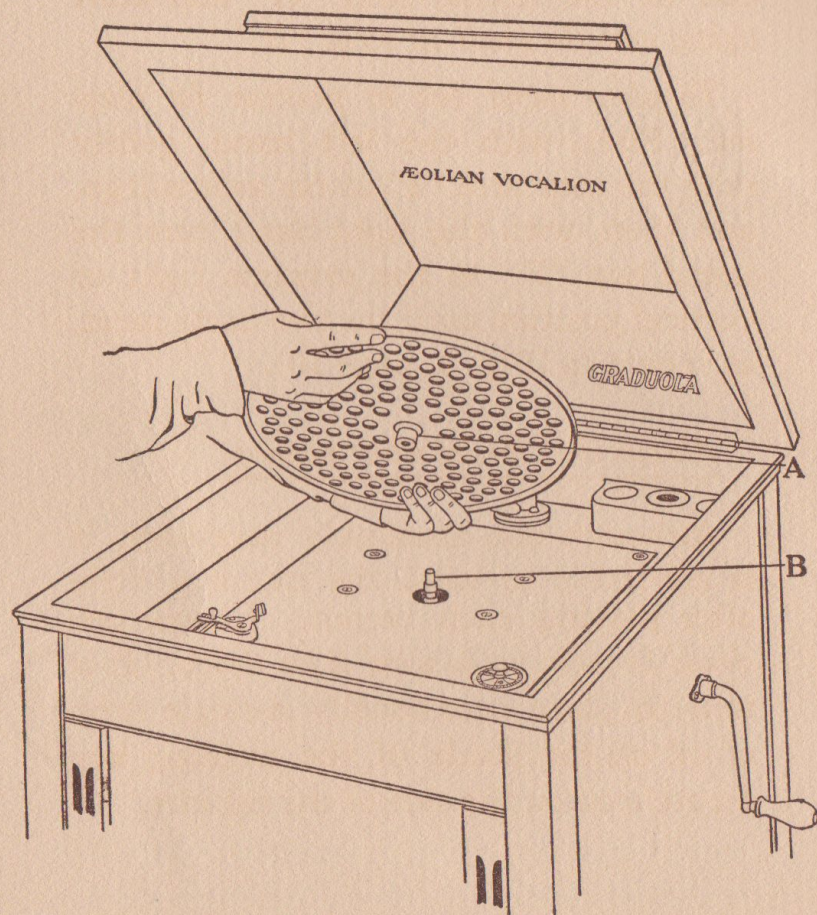


FIG. 1

far as it will go into the small hole at the end of the needle arm "G" and secure tightly with the small set screw "H."

To place sound box in position for playing. First, with the left hand, gently raise the tone arm "I" as far as it will go, and then, with the right hand, turn the sound-box "F" to the extreme right or vertical position until the two darts meet, as shown in (Fig. 3, page 10).

Always close the lid while playing.

Although not absolutely necessary, it is advisable to wind the motor a little after playing each record. *Extreme care should be taken not to wind it too tightly.* It is well to place occasionally a single drop of oil on the inside of the winding key escutcheon on the side of the cabinet.

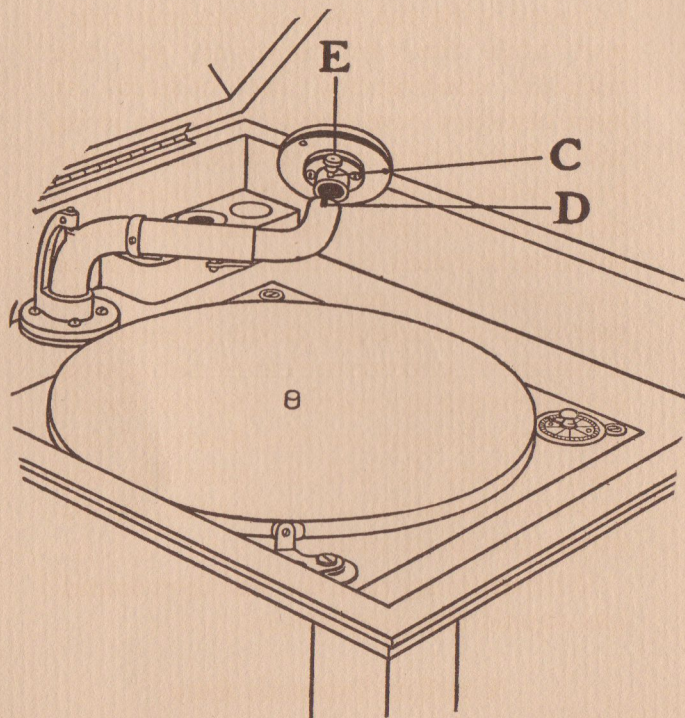


FIG. 2

The Vocation Sound-Box

The Vocation sound-box is made and adjusted with the most scrupulous care, and while the best materials and the simplest construction are utilized, at least ordinary care should be taken in its use. Users are reminded that the sound-box should be moved only by holding it by the edges or rim, and in no case should the fingers touch the mica diaphragm or the metal needle arm connected to it. In case of any breakages or the necessity of adjustment, patrons are cautioned against any attempts at repairs. The box should be promptly sent to The Aeolian Company, where it will be carefully and promptly repaired or readjusted, or another sent in its place.

With ordinary care the Vocation sound-box should last indefinitely.

Vocation Automatic Stop

To release the turn-table stop, so that the disc will revolve, move the tone arm

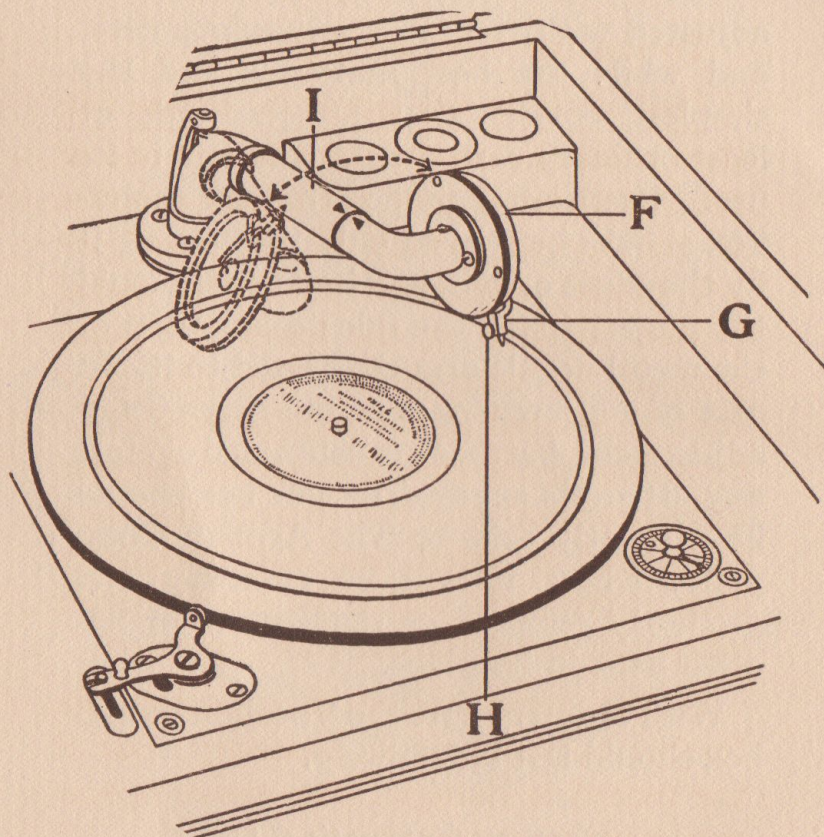


FIG. 3

to the extreme right. A movement to the extreme left will stop the disc.

To use the *Automatic Stop*:

First swing the tone arm to the extreme left; then place the needle point in any one of the last three or four (or inner) grooves of the record (which in all cases are left blank) and press the little metal button situated at the lower left hand part of the turn-table. The disc may then be started in the regular way (*i. e.* by swinging the tone-arm to the extreme right position) and the record may then be played as usual, and will invariably stop at the point where the needle rested when the metal button was depressed.

If the same record is repeated, no further adjustment is necessary, but if the record is changed, the above operation must be repeated.

During the playing of a record, if for any reason it is desirable to stop before

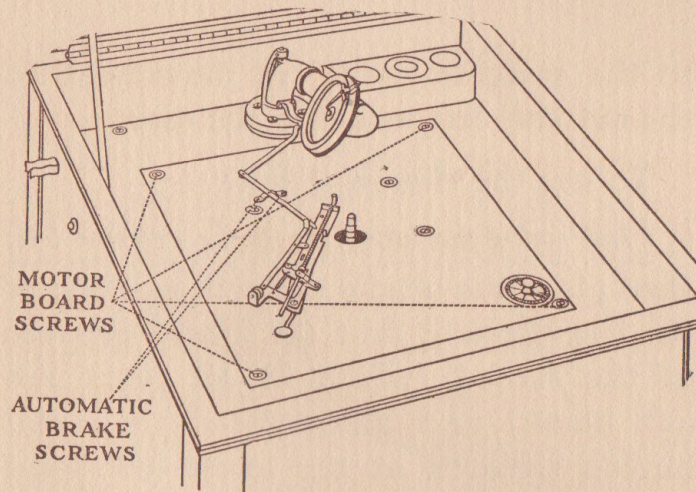


FIG. 4

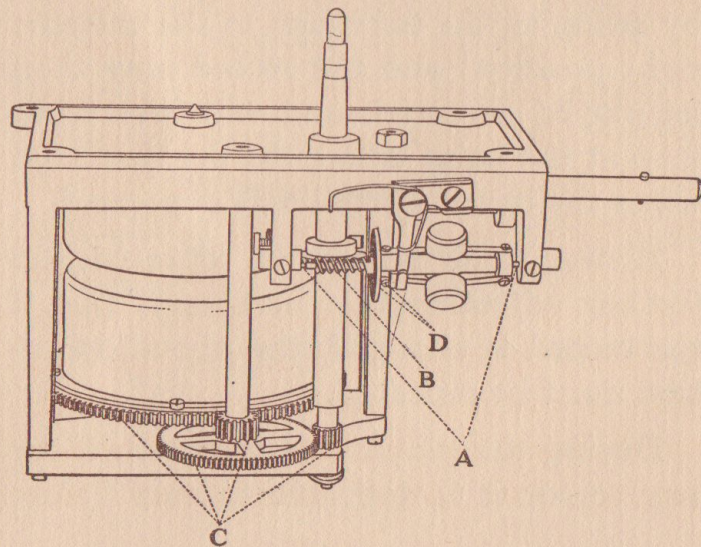


FIG. 5

the end, it is only necessary to press the metal button and the disc will promptly stop revolving.

Care of Records

By observing a few simple directions, it will be found that records will not only last very much longer, but give much more satisfaction and at all times sound clearer and more musical.

Too much care cannot be taken in keeping records perfectly clean. It is not sufficient merely to keep records free from dust particles or even to place them in the albums after playing, as an examination will show that the action of the needle upon the record will often cause, through wear, gritty particles to collect. If this substance is permitted to remain upon the record, it is likely to cause roughness, and therefore each record should be carefully cleaned before playing. The most satisfactory im-

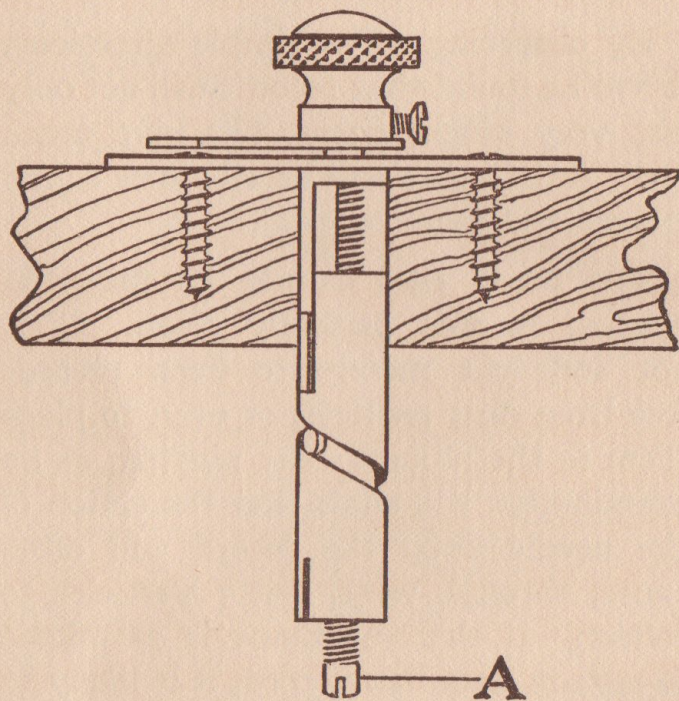


FIG. 6

plement for this purpose is a broad camel's hair brush, or a piece of velvet carpet properly mounted either upon a piece of wood or handle of some kind. (One of the best of this latter type is the "Standard Record Cleaner" which may be obtained at Aeolian Hall or at any of the agencies of The Aeolian Vocalion).

Exhaustive tests have shown that the life of a record is greatly lengthened and its original character preserved when only one type and size of needle is used. It is therefore strongly recommended that a single kind of needle be adopted and used on all records.

Records are susceptible to damage unless the face of each is carefully protected. Therefore they should never be piled one upon another, and each record should be replaced in the record album immediately after playing.

The Graduola

Only the simplest directions need be given for operating this remarkable device. After employing the GRADUOLA with a few records, its use and operation become instinctive. Therefore, in this paragraph, no attempt will be made to describe its wonderful charm or its effect, musically, upon records, but merely to call attention to some points which might not at once become apparent to the player.

If the instrument is equipped with the Volunome, be sure that the pointer is placed at FF before using the GRADUOLA.

It will be noticed that the music is made gradually softer as the GRADUOLA knob is pulled out, and that the suddenness of this graduation is determined by the speed with which the plunger is withdrawn.

It will be found that the best results

will be obtained from the GRADUOLA when it is operated slowly rather than suddenly, as the greatest charm is imparted to the records by the crescendo and diminuendo effects thus achieved. A sudden movement will give the effect of accent and, therefore, care should be taken to prevent such an abrupt tonal change unless it is actually intended.

The GRADUOLA is adjusted so that a large range of tonal effects may be obtained, but care should be taken not to place the GRADUOLA in the extremely soft position in passages of records which are of great force and power. While no harm will be done to either the instrument or the record, yet it will be found that the effects are not as pleasing as when the extreme point of softness is reserved for records of delicate, musical tones, such, for example, as violin or cello solos.

For an easy and effective operation of

the GRADUOLA the following is suggested: Hold the tube of the GRADUOLA in the left hand so that the thumb may remain on top and in position to push the knob outwardly. Thus, as the right hand lightly pulls or pushes the knob, the left thumb is guiding it so that all effects produced are gradual.

While using the GRADUOLA, patrons cannot be too strongly urged *to close the lid of the instrument*. Only by observing this rule can the full charm of the GRADUOLA be obtained.

Under no circumstances should the GRADUOLA be operated without drawing the black cord out of the instrument its entire length.

The careful observance of these simple suggestions will enable the operator to obtain the indescribable pleasure which the GRADUOLA can give him, and while the device will be found to be extremely sensitive, it is well and strongly made

and there is very little possibility of its getting out of order.

The Volunome

This important device gives to the Vocalion a special advantage and one which is entirely without equivalent in any other instrument. On the dial of the Volunome are dynamic indications ranging from FF to PP. Adjusted to the dial is a pointer which may be moved from end to end of the dial and which is connected to the mechanism controlling the tone volume of the instrument. When it is desired that a piece be played throughout with full power, the pointer is placed at FF. Adjusting the pointer to the position marked PP will cause any record to be played with the most extreme softness.

The VOLUNOME should be set before the record begins playing, and is not to be shifted during the performance of the

record. In order to get the best and most satisfactory results from the VOLUNOME, never adjust the pointer to PP when playing records of great strength or power, such as brass band selections, etc. This extreme point should only be used in records producing delicate musical tonal effects throughout, such, for example, as records of the violin, vocal selections, etc.

Through expert observation it has been established that records receive substantial injury when played with needles of various gradings. Thus a record played always with a loud needle will give satisfaction longer than one played alternately with a loud and soft needle. It is strongly recommended, therefore, that Aeolian-Vocalion needles only be used in these instruments. They are all of one type, and, as will be seen, by the use of the VOLUNOME, tone control is secured without the use of loud, soft

or the unsatisfactory fibre needle points.

N. B. Care should be taken to see that the VOLUNOME pointer is adjusted to FF when the instrument is left after playing.

Care of Motors

Aeolian-Vocalion motors are of the best possible construction, the greatest care being exercised to see that only the most perfect materials shall be used in each of their parts. They are assembled with scrupulous care and put through the most severe tests and should require very little attention.

It is advisable to test the motor for speed after the instrument has been unpacked. The turn-table should make 78 revolutions per minute when the indicator is set at 78. If it is found that the speed regulation is not correct, adjustment may be made from underneath.

First, remove winding key from instrument. Second, remove the four screws which will be found at the corners of the motor board (Fig. 4, page 12), and the two screws which hold automatic stop lever to motor board, then the motor board with the motor attached may be easily taken out of the instrument. Third, turn the adjusting screw at the bottom of the post of indicator, marked "A" (Fig. 6, page 14), to the *right* to *increase* the speed of turntable, to the *left* to *decrease* its speed.

If it is found after long usage that the motor seems to act sluggishly, a few drops of *Aeolian-Vocalion Movement Oil* applied to each of the bearing parts (Fig. 5, page 12) will remove the difficulty.

The following parts should be lubricated with this oil:

Both pivot points of governor shaft (a).

Governor worm gear (b).

The teeth of the various gears (c).

It is particularly important that a drop of oil occasionally be put on the governor disc at the point (d) where the felt covered lever bears against it.

The greatest care should be used to see that nothing touches the revolving governor, as any disarrangement of this part will seriously affect the proper working of the motor.

The springs will require no lubricant except at long intervals. When it is necessary, have the repair man remove tops of the spring casings and repack with *Aeolian-Vocalion Spring Lubricant*.

It cannot be too strongly recommended that the oil lubricant above mentioned and obtainable from The Aeolian Company and all its Agents, be used on the AEOLIAN-VOCALION Motors, as the materials in its composition are of the best quality and will give the best results.